

USAR\_J-01\_Harada

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My name is Kaname Harada.

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I was a pilot of "Zero" (fighter aircraft) and Lieutenant Junior Grade Kaname Harada.

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Since Japan invaded China in 1933, America, Britain, China, and Dutch (the ABCD line) had taken sanctions against Japan. After that, every day I was feeling we couldn't avoid a war against the U.S., if the ABCD line gave more pressure on our country.

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Though I thought we had to pay a heavy price for fighting against the U.S., I believed Japan was historically a country of God, so I didn't think we would lose.

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In November, 1941, Combined Fleet was gathered in Kankan Harbor of Etorofu Island (Itrup Island), where I heard Ambassador Nomura and Kurusu were negotiating with the U.S. government, and we might start fighting against the U.S. if the negotiation broke down. If so, a coded telegram would be sent and we would receive orders to take part in a battle.

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I think it was the mid-November.

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It was the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor that I knew what I was supposed to do on the appointed day.

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From Hitokappu Harbor to Hawaii, we made sure that our task force took the northward trip to avoid any merchant ships. We were very careful to make the trip secret.

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We were pilots of fighter aircrafts and our duty was to fight against our enemy's airplanes. So we were working out plans of operations every day on the way to Hawaii. People, who launched torpedoes, were making arrangements and thinking about raids. We, pilots, diligently studied our opponent aircrafts, such as F4F or P38.

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We saw photographs of their fighter aircrafts to recognize what kind of fighters they were even from far away.

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We, pilots, didn't hear nor see anything about it. But I remember Noboru Kanae, who was sleeping next to me and also came from the same hometown, was good at dropping bombs on targets, and he stayed up late every night to do research.

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I was ordered to protect the Fleet and I didn't need to fly to the enemy's land, so I was not that nervous. But my fellow pilots, who were ordered to fly to Pearl Harbor, were aware that they would die, while preparing for the departure, changing their underwear, and wearing a headband printed the national flag.

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We studied our opponent's fighters very well in advance, so we gave younger pilots some advice about how to attack them or what to be cautious and so on.

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I heard the U.S. had a thorough knowledge of the Japanese radar equipments. We were worried they flew at a lower altitude or higher to avoid our jamming. So we tighten our guard against them, trying to cover a wide range of the air.

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I flew to keep a strict watch for 3 hours, from 0130 to 0430, in the first shift. They didn't make a surprise attack on us, and then I landed. Next, I flew for 2 hours, from 0700 to 0900, in the third shift. During those time, we took turns to keep our eyes on the air and we covered the five shifts in total.

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I got on Zero Model 21.

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Since I came all the way to Pearl Harbor, I hoped to participated in a battle as a pilot of the fighter. But I was ordered to patrol the air to protect the Fleet the day before the attack. At that time, I was disappointed, but I was convinced that it was more important to protect our Fleet than to attack and damage the enemy, because it would be nothing if we got completely destroyed. So I agreed with it.

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During the patrol, we didn't have any idea about where they were coming from nor what kind of fighters would show up, and it made me so nervous. If we found them, we had to completely destroy them before we got damaged. That's our job. We were not just flying, but we had to keep our eyes on everywhere. I felt a 3-hour patrol was equivalent to all day work and it was such a tough job. However, somebody had to do it. Besides, all assigned flights were orders, and we had to follow any orders, because we were told we should consider our senior officer's orders as the Emperor's. Once we received an order, we just had to focus on it and to do our best.

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Our Fleet was at anchor far away from Pearl Harbor, and even if it approached closest to the Harbor, it was still 500 km away. So during the combat air patrol, we could never see Hawaii.

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I don't think our life was affected directly by the sanctions led by the ABCD line. On the whole, if we couldn't import oil, which was most important to us, and other resources, we thought we would be over, but we actually didn't feel the crisis individually, nor the civilians did.

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We had no idea how far the U.S. came down toward us in the Pacific Ocean, but from the media, we recognized the U.S. government gave us the huge political pressure.

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Oahu Island was the major base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and most of the U.S. Navy battleships were at anchor there, and we felt the U.S. were watching the Pacific Ocean from there.

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We always did research on what kind of battleships were there and how many, and we always held those information.

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I was not a smart kid. I was small, but fortunately I was in excellent health. So I was always thinking how I could make the most of my attributes. In my childhood, I was excited to hear a lot of heroic stories in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, and I felt like becoming a soldier. Since I disliked studying, I wanted to contribute to my country at the time when Japan put emphasis on the military policy to keep up with the U.S. and the U.K., and I decided to become

a soldier. I was interested in joining the Navy, because I wanted to be a pilot.

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After Marco Polo Bridge Incident in 1933, Japan started preparedness for war. In the Navy, we changed the calendar to Monday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Friday, and then, we started trainings without any weekends. We, fighter pilots, were supposed to secure the mastery of the air and also, as I mentioned, to protect our Fleet. However, I heard pilots of Torpedo bombers, Type 97 Carrier Attack Bombers, were trained well at Kagoshima Harbor, which was considered similar to Pearl Harbor, before the attack. We, fighter pilots, were trained as usual to get more skilled at air-fights and shooting. We didn't have any special training for the attack on Pearl Harbor.

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We were familiar with the U.K. in childhood, because Japan was allied with the U.K. and the Navy learned a lot about aviation from it. We first thought America was like the U.K., but since we heard America seemed to support China in the battle before Greater East Asia War, I felt that America was a terrifying country, which intervened in the affairs of other countries and took the initiative in everything.

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I don't have any specific picture in my mind about the American. I just think America is a country which gained independence from Britain. After WWII, I often visit the U.S. and I don't have any bad feelings towards the American, but as a nation, I think the U.S. is too ambitious.

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In the Navy, we did the same trainings as usual. We didn't have any special trainings for the war.

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I don't remember any specific routines.

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At the wartime, even though we could barely take days off, I think we had enough rest as much as we needed.

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I didn't feel tired that much at that time. Since I was young, I went out to get a drink or went for walk and so on.

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In Japan, everybody was prepared for the worst, since we started a war against the U.S. We were getting more afraid that America might enter our land and trample on it.

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As long as we were in the battle against America, all of our family and friends were aware that we might die.

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Around 1941, I guess we were not in a serious trouble yet. After the Battle of Midway, the Battle of the Coral Sea, and the Battle of Guadalcanal, Japan kept losing battles and was eager to make up the loss with the operation of Tokko (Kamikaze), which made pilots intentionally crash their airplanes laden with bombs into the opponent's ships. Besides, there were the operations of Kikka, a manned flying bomb, and Kaiten, a torpedo modified as a suicide weapon.

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I heard the news about the new type of bombs dropped on the city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I knew all along that it would come to this. During the war, all agreements, treaties, and rules which should be followed on humanitarian grounds were disregarded. Extremely speaking, I realized the science and technology could be developing until all being on the earth would be destroyed, and I shuddered at how fearful a war was.

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When the atomic bombs were dropped, I was in Chitose, Hokkaido. I heard a lot of news about it, and I felt scared. However, I was so far away from those cities that I didn't actually see the sight. I just felt scared by what I heard from the news.

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We never expected us to surrender, so we couldn't first understand the Gyokuon-hoso (the radio broadcast by the Emperor Hirohito). I believed we never surrender, because Japan had such a long history, like more than 2000 years. It might sound like a funny story now, but we believed that Kamikaze (Wind of God) would help us, as it had happened at the Mongol invasion of Japan (Genko). So I couldn't understand what was happening. I was just surprised when my boss told us Japan had surrendered.

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When I came back to Japan, we received a hero's welcome. I was allowed to go back home for two days. It was just around the month in

which childbirth was expected, so I rushed home. Our baby boy was already born. After I saw his face, I went back to the ship.

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After the attack on Pearl Harbor, I took some rest. Then, I went to the South to support the Army, because they found their way into the South. We set our base in Kendari (in Indonesia), and we, fighter pilots, attacked the southern islands, and the southernmost Port Darwin (in Australia). We were ordered to destroy the British forces on Ceylon Island, which is now renamed Sri Lanka. On April 5, 1942, the five carriers, Akagi, Soryu, Hiryu, Shokaku, and Zuikaku, launched their airplanes and attacked the British base on Ceylon Island, and then, Trincomalee. The operation worked well, and we destroyed the British forces there. After that, on the way home, we heard the U.S. aircraft carrier approached to Japan, and then Doolittle's B-25s attacked the Tokyo area. We were ordered to follow the U.S. carrier, but soon after it set out, it stopped, and B-25s fled to China, and then, our mission was canceled. We went back to Japan to take some rest, and on June 5, 1942, we went to the Battle of Midway, and we were completely defeated. We lost the carrier, Akagi, Soryu, and Hiryu. We withdrew, and we went to Guadalcanal to reclaim the island with the aircraft carriers, Hiyo and Junyo. I had an air-fight with a Grumman F4F fighter, and I crash-landed into the jungle. I was badly injured, and I could never go back to any battles. After that, I was transferred to the training unit, and I moved to Chitose, in Hokkaido, and trained young pilots for Shusui, a rocket-powered interceptor aircraft closely based on the German Messerschmitt Me 163, in order to fight against B29. Then, the war ended.

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In China, the Saeki Kokutai was organized and then I was assigned to the 12<sup>th</sup> Kokutai in Shanghai in early 1937. We supported the Army from the time when they landed to the fall of Nanking in early 1938. After the fall of Nanking, the Chinese military retreated upstream on the river, and we were ordered to attack them. At that time, we had Type 95 fighters, which held two 60-kilogram bombs. Then, there was the USS Panay among the Chinese ships. We couldn't tell from the sky it was the American ship. I was pretty good at hitting a target, so I took aim at the biggest ship, and hit it successfully. The ship sank. After that, I found out it was the USS Panay. Even though the U.S. had not gone into the war at that time, we sank its ship. So it became a diplomatic dispute. We, people who sank the USS Panay, were punished, and then ordered to go back to Japan. Later, an American reporter told me the national flag was spread on the deck soon after we started the attack. But we couldn't see it. I acknowledge we were to blame for the sinking of the Panay, but I still believe the U.S. was

also responsible for it, because they mingled with the defeated Chinese ships.

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On the battle of Guadalcanal, I was a member of the carrier Hiyo, and the fighter aircrafts of Junyo escorted us. I heard our Hiyo fighter leader was more experienced than the Junyo fighter leader. And the Junyo attack leader was more experienced than the Hiyo leader. The Hiyo fighter leader and the Junyo attack leader both were more experienced than the others. That's why we had such a strange formation. So we were escorting the Junyo Type 97s and Junyo Zeros. Junyo launched nine Type 97s and nine Zeros, and so did Hiyo. But one Type 97 had some engine trouble and returned to Junyo. We, nine Zeros, escorted eight Type 97s of Junyo. We, Zero fighters, first attacked the enemy fighters near the U.S. airport. But we missed once, and then we did it again. The Hiyo Type 97s finished the attack and then returned. When the Junyo Type 97s tried to attack again, the Grumman F4F fighters were waiting for them and started attacking them. There was a series of clouds around 500 meters above me. And then, there were the 12 or 13 Grumman fighters waiting above the clouds. When we approached to their airport, they attacked us. The Zero fighters were faster and lighter than Type 97s, which were loaded with a 800-kilogram bomb. So we had to protect the Type 97s, but the enemy fighters attacked them when we were away from them. We were ready to fight them, but it seemed they knew about Zeros and they tried not to attack us. Then, we gave them a blow. Soon their two fighters were on fire and fell. The two F4Fs were chasing us, and so were we. I first tried to chase them, but I found one F4F fighter turned around. I thought we could be destroyed if I didn't do anything about it. So I turned around and decided to fight it. The enemy fighter was in an advantageous position, and took aim at me. If I tried to escape, I would be shot down. So I decided to fight him, and both of us hit. It seemed we hit each other successfully. My left arm was badly injured and bleeding. The fuel tank was damaged, and I smelled gasoline. I was afraid my plane might catch a fire, so I turned off the engine. I saw the enemy falling down. I was relieved that nobody would take aim at me, and then I started thinking where to land, and saw palm trees below. It would be a better idea if I could land on the ocean, because it was safer. But I was injured so badly that I couldn't swim. Then I decided to land in the jungle, which looked very flat. Palm trees were very tall, about 15 or 16 meters tall. When the plane went into the palm trees, I passed out. Later, I found out my plane lost the left wing, while hitting the palm trees. The palm trees actually saved me, serving as a cushion, though the airplane flipped over. I don't know how long I was unconscious. When I woke up, I found the gasoline all over me. I was almost choked by the gasoline, so I tried to

get some air. But the airplane was crushed and the cockpit was like a sealed room. So I started digging on the ground with my right hand to get some air. My nails were broken, and I felt helpless. But people could get enormous strength when they face in a crisis. Fortunately, the ground was soft. I was able to dig it and put my face outside. The more one has, the more one wants. Once my face was out, I wanted to get out of the airplane. I don't know how long I dug the ground, but finally I got out. When I was out and relieved, I started feeling pain on my arm, though I had not felt any pain before. When I got out of the plane, I couldn't stand the pain. When I was thinking what to do, I saw a pilot walking towards me with a bloody face. It was Sato, with whom I had worked as instructors at Kasumigaura. I asked him what happened. He told me his airplane was crushed, and Lieutenant (junior grade) Kuno was shot in the head and died in the aircraft. However, the young reconnaissance man was trapped in the wrecked aircraft. We decided to save him together, but he was trapped very firmly inside the wrecked aircraft. We couldn't rescue him, so we decided to ask the inhabitants for some help. But we couldn't find anyone. There were only deserted houses. Everybody left. So we decided to go to the other direction to find somebody. Before going to the next village, we returned to the reconnaissance man. Then, he told us he gave up and asked us not to look for any help. We told him not to say such a thing, and to hang in there. Giving up all hopes, he died, though I didn't think he got wounded badly, soon after he asked Sato to bring some of his hair and nails back to his mother. I thought we should never give up. I felt people could be stronger or weaker than they thought. Sato and I held a wake over the body, offering flowers, and spent the night there. I actually thought we would be over here. I was in pain and I couldn't sleep at all. When I looked at Sato's face next to me, he was also awake. While we were talking there was nothing left we could do, we were watching the same moon as we saw in our hometown and tears welled up in our eyes. We almost gave up all hopes, but next morning we felt better, seeing the sun and tried to find a way to survive and wandered in the jungle for two days. And then, we met an advance party of fifteen or sixteen engineers and we joined them. Now I think life is not just an empty dream, but also we are living on.

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Later, when I asked around, I found out the young reconnaissance was Tadao Maruyama, who graduated from the same junior high school as I. His family was living in Yamanashi (?). If I had known his name, I felt we could have done more to encourage him to be alive. Sato and I went to his family and told his story.

02:05:29:12



October 17, 1942.

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I crashed at Guadalcanal on October 17, 1942. When I visited the American Airpower Heritage Museum in Midland, Texas, we had a postwar reunion of American and Japanese veteran pilots. While I was talking to one of them, I found out that he was the one who shot me down. His name was Joe Foss, who became a governor of South Dakota and also a commissioner of the American Football league. We were glad to see each other alive, and I learned that he had landed at the airport after I had shot him down. We shake hands with each other, promising to work hard to make world peace.

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When I talked to a British photo journalist about the Pearl Harbor attack, I also mentioned the attack on Ceylon Island, and he got more interested in the story. I told him I was late for the predetermined rendezvous time, because I was chasing a British airplane and I got carried away. I heard the British pilot landed in a paddy field and he survived. My story was on a newspaper in the U.K., and then, a British historian contacted me. He told me two airplanes actually landed in a paddy field and both of them were alive, so he asked me to come to the U.D. and meet one of them. When I visited there, one of the pilots passed away already, and another was still alive. Luckily, I met him. He was glad to see me alive. It is strange the pilots who I fought against are still alive in the U.S. and the U.K. And I have met both of them after the war.

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Since people say that the attack on Pearl Harbor was a "surprise attack," I feel guilty about it. However, at the attack on Pearl Harbor, there were no U.S. aircraft carriers. So I doubt the U.S. didn't know we would attack them. If so, we, who were actually involved in the attack, should take a responsibility for it, but I think the U.S., who let us do so, was also responsible for it. So we should never repeat the same mistake. When I was a kid, I thought a war was a heroic act. However, after I was actually engaged in the war, I learned a war was such a cruel act, violating all human rights. We have to kill each other, even though we don't know each other nor bear malice personally toward each other. If we didn't kill the opponents first, we would get killed. So now I do hate a war. I hope the U.S. would understand how cruel a war is and take the lead in making world peace. I expect President Obama to abolish not only all nuclear weapons but also chemical weapons all over the world. I could say we live in peace now, but not completely. I want world peace, where all of us understand each other. Now that Japan is allied with the U.S., we

should work together to make world peace. If the U.S. couldn't take initiative in world peace, I wouldn't respect it anymore.